

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 02582 031839Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 IO-13 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01
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R 031707Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5305
INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, MO
SUBJ: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL BRANCH ANSWERS MOROCCAN MINISTER
OF JUSTICE

REF: (A) 77 RABAT 6330, (B) 77 RABAT 6402

1. OPPOSITION SOCIALIST PARTY (USFP) ORGAN AL MOUHARRIR
PUBLISHED APRIL 28 PURPORTED AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
RESPONSE TO GOM JUSTICE MINISTER BOUABID'S NOVEMBER 12
STATEMENT (REFTEL B) ON AI'S EARLIER REPORT ON MOROCCO
(REFTEL A). AS RESPONSE REPORTEDLY CAME FROM THE AI BRANCH
IN THE NETHERLANDS, IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THIS
CONSTITUTES AN OFFICIAL AI POSITION. RESPONSE TAKES
STRONG EXCEPTION THROUGHOUT TO BOUABID'S EARLIER STATEMENT.

2. THIS LATEST EXCHANGE, WHICH PROBABLY STARTED OUT IN
FRENCH OR ENGLISH, WAS TRANSLATED BY AL MOUHARRIR INTO
ARABIC. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE PUT IT INTO ENGLISH, IT MAY
HAVE LOST SOMETHING IN THE PROCESS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE
ORIGINAL VERSION IF AVAILABLE IN DEPARTMENT OR FROM
EMBASSIES LONDON OR THE HAGUE AS WELL AS ANY COMMENT ON
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PAGE 02 RABAT 02582 031839Z

WEIGHT WHICH SHOULD BE GIVEN THIS ITEM. HIGHLIGHTS OF AI RESPONSE
FOLLOW:

3. DEFINITION OF PRISONERS: AI EXPRESSES "ASTONISHMENT"
AT BOUABID'S NOVEMBER 12 DECLARATION AND CITES HIS
"MISINTERPRETATION" OF AI'S POSITION. THERE REMAIN
MANY "PRISONERS OF OPINION" IN MOROCCO. THE GOM APPLIES

CRIMINAL LAW TO POLITICAL AND CRIMINAL CASES ALIKE.

4. CASABLANCA TRIAL: OCTOBER 1977 AI REPORT ON MOROCCO WAS NOT, AS ALLEGED BY BOUABID, FOCUSSED ON CASABLANCA TRIALS. HOWEVER, CASABLANCA TRIALS IMPORTANT AS THEY SHOWED THAT NOTHING HAD REALLY CHANGED.

5. ALGERIAN CONNECTION DENIED: AI IS INDEPENDENT OF ANY GOVERNMENT. GOM SHOULD PROVE ITS CHARGES.

6. AI HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN WELCOMED: IN JULY 1973, ONE OF AI'S OBSERVERS SPENT TWO DAYS AT RABAT AIRPORT WITHOUT BEING PERMITTED TO ENTER THE COUNTRY TO ATTEND KENITRA TRIALS.

7. ILLEGAL DETENTION: AI POSSESSES AMPLE INFORMATION THAT NATIONAL POLICE CAN AND DO MAKE ARRESTS WITHOUT PROPER LEGAL PROCEDURE.

8. TORTURE IS STILL EMPLOYED: AI JUDGES THAT TORTURE IS CURRENTLY EMPLOYED AND HAS INFORMATION IT TRUSTS TO SUPPORT THIS. TORTURE IS NOT CONFINED TO POLITICAL PRISONERS, BUT IS ALSO USED ON OTHERS. DETENTION CENTERS DO EXIST, AND TORTURE ALSO TAKES PLACE IN POLICE OFFICES.

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PAGE 03 RABAT 02582 031839Z

9. AI SHOCKED: THE ORGANIZATION WAS SHOCKED WHEN BOUABID DENIED AI'S "FACTS" AND FAILED TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION. WHY NOT FORM A COMMISSION TO STUDY THE FACTS? AI WOULD SHARE BOUABID'S ASSESSMENT OF "DEMOCRATIC SPIRIT IN MOROCCAN INSTITUTIONS" IF THE GOM FOLLOWED PARLIAMENT'S DECEMBER CALL FOR THE RELEASE OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS.
ANDERSON

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